

National Resource Centers and  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

# SOUTHEAST ASIA

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Abstracts  
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## **NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA AT CORNELL**

Cornell University has been engaged in the study of Southeast Asia since 1950 when Lauriston Sharp founded the Southeast Asia Program (SEAP). Faculty members come from traditional liberal arts departments and applied disciplines such as art history, political science, developmental and rural sociology, history, business and finance, industrial and labor relations, economics, linguistics, literature, anthropology, music, regional science, and Asian studies. True to its mission, SEAP has trained area scholars who have distinguished themselves at colleges, universities, area study centers, foundations, banks, businesses, and government agencies both in the United States and abroad.

Students can pursue a course of study at all levels. They can complete a BA in Asian Studies, Southeast Asian history, or concentrate in Southeast Asian studies while majoring in another discipline. Graduate students can undertake an interdisciplinary minor in Southeast Asian Studies, an MA, or PhD in Southeast Asian history. Cornell offers 153 courses that cover the area and 90 courses in the major languages of the regions: Burmese, Cebuano (Bisayan), Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. SEAP students work closely with faculty to construct individual programs of study. Cornell's special graduate committee system promotes interdisciplinary studies that is necessary for the study of Southeast Asia today.

Although recognizing that new forces, such as demographic shifts, diaspora, and the transnationality of labor and capital are important processes that forces us to fine tune our understanding of the region, knowledge of particular places is still important. The conceptualization of "area" must still include serious study of culture, language, history, and politics. Therefore, Cornell is committed to maintain faculty strengths in the traditional disciplines, and at the same time, it recognizes that area studies must also build on the strengths of faculty in the professional and applied fields. The current SEAP faculty roster reflects this conviction.

The John M. Echols Collection of Southeast Asia, largest in the world, houses nearly 300,000 titles, 25,000 periodicals, close to 1,000 newspaper titles, and 500 videos. The Collection annually attracts over one hundred scholars, students from other institutions, and government officials from around the world to Cornell. SEAP is also active in efforts to preserve and help disseminate the regions's literary heritage. It is engaged in microfilming endangered materials both here and abroad. Recently, two important microfilming projects were completed in Indonesia and the Philippines, and the microfilming of the Echols' large retrospective collection of Southeast Asian newspapers is well under way.

Cornell is the largest publisher of books on Southeast Asia in the U. S. SEAP's publications office averages five to six monographs a year plus language texts, and pamphlets. And the widely read semi-annual journal, *Indonesia* is sent to subscribers all over the world. The Publications office new website allows for transactions conducted over the internet.

SEAP continues to build upon its broad array of programs that promote the knowledge of Southeast Asia to the national, local and regional communities. A new regional faculty associates program will provide members with library privileges, access to all SEAP activities, and an invitation to attend annual workshops on curriculum development and teaching. In the next three years, the impact of the Chinese in Southeast Asia will be the subject of special focus. A library and museum exhibit on that topic will culminate in a conference that builds upon the annual Golay lecture series.

## **CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) of Northern Illinois University (NIU) was established in 1963 and is one of the oldest in the nation. CSEAS is also the largest interdisciplinary area studies program on campus with a distinguished faculty, diverse and comprehensive undergraduate and graduate program, and one of the finest library collections on Southeast Asia with major strengths in Thailand, Indonesia and Burma. CSEAS receives major institutional support from the university and became a Title VI Undergraduate National Resource Center in 1997. Northern Illinois University is an important state university serving 16,893 undergraduates and 5,674 graduate students. Located between the two largest urban cities (Chicago and Rockford) in Illinois, the region is a mixed economy of high-technology growth businesses and agribusiness with an ethnically diverse population, many of whom are of Southeast Asian origin or Southeast Asian American descent. Our Southeast Asia program and outreach match the needs of these diverse constituents through four major emphases: 1) our development of universally accessible world wide web-based multimedia language and culture training programs in Thai, Indonesian, and Tagalog (SEAsite); 2) our minority-focused and teacher-focused outreach activities that have attracted widening audiences; 3) our high quality, individualized instruction and one-on-one involvement with our undergraduate and graduate students concentrating in Southeast Asian Studies; and 4) our faculty's outstanding scholarship and broad involvement in collaboration with universities abroad. As the largest teacher training institution of higher education in northern Illinois, we hope in this grant to continue building area and language studies awareness among pre-service and inservice teachers, expand our recruitment and enhancement of undergraduate training, and expand our SEAsite world wide web technology to include new languages, materials and courses in ways that will enable teachers, businesses, the media, and students all over the world to learn about Southeast Asia.

Our proposal sets forth numerous projects that build on our present strengths and that reflect our commitment to technology-based instruction and instructional materials for Southeast Asian language teachers and students, for teachers in P-12 and community colleges, the wider business, media and educated public, and which continue to expand our curriculum in new areas of Southeast Asian expertise. To enhance our undergraduate experience and expand our recruitment activities, we propose in this grant to set up two new short-term study abroad experiences in the Philippines and Cambodia and to fill interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary gaps in Lao Folklore and Culture, Burmese Art and Culture, and in International News Communications in Southeast Asia. Our unique team of language professors and computer scientists hope to expand computer-assisted language training and add new multimedia language and culture lessons to our established Tagalog, Thai and Indonesian web sites, while building new programs in Lao and Burmese and developing teaching guides for how to use this technology in the classroom. They are a central component of our outreach and teacher training projects with community colleges, P-12 students and teachers. These are some of the many interrelated ways that the CSEAS is building on our mission as NIU's premier interdisciplinary area studies program.

## **Southeast Asian Studies at Ohio University: Fashioning Global Communities**

In the year 2000, Ohio University marks 50 years of dedication to the study of Southeast Asia and 33 years of building resources for such study under the auspices of its Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS). A Research II institution, Ohio considers its Southeast Asian interests to be among its most important, and has long committed significant resources to achieving excellence in this area. Our library holdings--especially on Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia--are of world rank. The endowed Tun Razak Chair for the study of Malaysia is the only such chair in Southeast Asian Studies in the United States. Our monograph series on Southeast Asia is internationally recognized. Most recently, our 1998 publication, *Myth and History in the Historiography of Early Burma* by Michael Aung-Thwin was awarded a Choice Book Award, an honor accorded to less than 3% of all academic books published.

Ohio takes pride in its strong history of teaching excellence. Among public universities, Ohio was ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation for academic quality by U.S. News and World Report (1999). In America's 100 Best College Buys, Ohio is described as offering "the resources and advantages of a major university" while maintaining the "feel of a small college town." Ohio is the only public institution in Ohio included in the 1999 directory. Money Magazine ranked Ohio 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation and best in Ohio (1997). And Kiplinger Personal Finance magazine ranked Ohio 38<sup>th</sup> out of 580 four-year public colleges and universities (1998). To maintain this high standard, Ohio's administration is committed to renewing support for programs of excellence. In 1997 the Center for International Studies (CIS) was given a budget enhancement of \$150,000 for an administrative reorganization and the hiring of new support personnel for area studies and development programs. As a consequence, the CSEAS at Ohio is now in the midst of a dramatic program of re-strengthening and re-centering. Key points are:

- The CIS now has a full-time FLAS coordinator, a full-time outreach coordinator and director for the undergraduate program, and a full-time administrator and grants coordinator for the CIS.
- We have expanded our Southeast Asian Language program with the development of a new Performance-Based Language Instruction Program under the direction of the Department of Linguistics. The CSEAS now offers Thai, Vietnamese and Indonesian/Malay, and supports students in all three languages with FLAS awards. Plans are to continue development of the SEA language portfolio at Ohio.
- The CIS has increased financial support for its prize-winning publications, which includes the SEA monograph series, by 40%. Moving beyond regional studies, our new series will cover global issues from a comparative perspective.

These gains provide a platform for continuing advancement and the development of initiatives that extend the reach of our strongest programs, which involve interdisciplinary research in cooperation with programs in our professional colleges. Key initiatives described in this proposal are:

- The Southeast Asia Media Overview Project, developed in cooperation with Ohio's College of Communication and the Asian Media Information and Communication Center (AMIC) at the School of Communication Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, will focus on the impact of global media, information technology and international business on Southeast Asian societies and their response to the challenge of fashioning global communities. The Southeast Asia Media Overview will initially cover media in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and Indonesia. In the second year, we will extend the Media project to Thailand. We intend that the Southeast Asia Media Overview to be a resource for scholars, journalists, and policy makers.
- Our new linkage with the University of Indonesia in the Center for Research on Intergroup Relations will involve joint research on inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflict, faculty and student exchanges, publications, workshops and conferences. With the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Indonesia, we aim to make the Research Center a major resource as Indonesia faces the challenges of democratization and decentralization.
- Our new linkage with the National Economics University in Hanoi in cooperation with Ohio's College of Business, our Southeast Asia Collection and USIA, lays the foundation for establishing collaborative projects in Vietnam.
- We are launching a program of comparative research and teaching across area studies in cooperation with the African Studies Program and the Latin American Studies Program. This emphasis will be reflected in our new publication series in comparative global studies.

*Title VI funding requested in this proposal will enable us to implement these initiatives and thereby provide new resources to scholars, journalists, and policy makers. These initiatives will also enhance our classroom teaching about Southeast Asia, while training a new generation of professionals interested in working in Southeast Asia, and raising awareness of the importance of Southeast Asia in our part of the Midwest.*

## **University of California, Los Angeles/ UC Berkeley**

California alone represents a very large proportion of the country's interaction with Southeast Asia, whether in terms of trade, investment, communications, media, migration or tourism. A National Resource Center for Southeast Asian Studies is long overdue in the state, and the UCLA/UCB Consortium on Southeast Asian Studies is designed to ensure that this is an outstanding one. The Consortium represents a cooperation between a long-established Southeast Asia Center at Berkeley and a newly established one at UCLA, although the cooperation pre-dated by two years the formal establishment of the UCLA Center.

Fortunately the two universities comprising the consortium have also responded to this challenge by committing major resources to Southeast Asian Studies. At a time when some of the older motivations for undertaking Southeast Asian Studies (the Cold War, U.S. involvement, the Peace Corps, exoticism, economic miracles) have been faltering, California has been the strongest beneficiary of a powerful new stimulus as the children of Southeast Asian immigrants begin to change the character of its student population. A strong new demand for courses on the languages, cultures and societies of Southeast Asia underlies the willingness of University of California administrations to generate major commitments to Southeast Asian Studies.

UCLA in 1999 committed to five new faculty positions on SE Asia, in addition to the staff and support for a Center for Southeast Asian Studies, a specialist librarian, and a fourth language (Indonesian). UCB at the same time committed to two new positions for its Center. Added to the existing 25 core faculty and the broad strengths of two outstanding universities, these appointments will give the Consortium the strongest concentration of Southeast Asian expertise in the country.

Berkeley already provides two undergraduate majors, and two MA degrees, in Southeast Asian Studies, offered through the different routes of a language-based department and an interdisciplinary program. UCLA will develop over the next three years an interdisciplinary minor, a major, and an MA program in Southeast Asian Studies. Both universities have strong Ph.D. Programs through Discipline Departments, which will be increasingly coordinated by the Center.

The University of California integrated library system has one of the three strongest collections on Southeast Asia in the country, alongside those of the Library of Congress and Cornell. Southeast Asian vernacular material is currently concentrated at Berkeley, though a complementary pattern is developing at UCLA as it expands its vernacular holdings. Language courses in Vietnamese, Tagalog and Thai already have higher enrolments than elsewhere in the country, as do many content courses on SE Asia.

This application to become a National Resource Center for Southeast Asian Studies is designed to ensure that the developing strengths are organised in the most professional way possible and become the basis for serving the wider educational needs of California and the nation. The bulk of the requested funding is in two areas. One area is calculated to fill some infrastructure needs, which the rapid expansion has brought about, especially in improving the language training, extending the curriculum through course preparation, developing the library holdings, and supporting the effective workings of the Consortium and its constituent Centers.

The other major area is outreach (25%), designed to enable the Southeast Asian expertise of the Consortium to be made available to other educational institutions in California, especially in ways that ultimately improve classroom teaching and develop more balanced syllabi (20%). Both UCB and UCLA will deploy their Southeast Asian resources effectively by using existing modes of delivery of summer courses for primary and community college teachers. These efforts meet the absolute priority on teacher

training. Given DOE funding as an NRC to match the striking commitment of the two leading California universities, the Consortium will be well placed to lead the national effort in Southeast Asian Studies into the next century.

## **University of Hawai'i**

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is a state land-grant institution located in Honolulu, a major US city with a population nearing one million. The University's commitment to Asian studies in Hawai'i is evident in the institution's focus on Asia and the Pacific. The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), coordinating unit for many of these programs, is housed within the School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies (SHAPS) along with its sister centers concentrating on Japan, China, South Asia, the Philippines, Russia in Asia, Buddhism, Korea, the Pacific and Hawai'i. CSEAS directs a substantial portion of its resources to the development of language and area studies educational materials. Its outreach programs provide faculty, students, and the community a diverse selection of cultural, arts and language programs.

UH regularly offers a wide range of courses related to Southeast Asia. While most are in the social sciences and the humanities, the arts are well represented. In addition, courses are currently offered in Business and Tropical Agriculture. Of the non-language courses with clear country foci, the Philippines and Indonesia have the broadest coverage with interest in Viet Nam and Cambodia steadily increasing. UH students may be awarded BA and MA degrees in Southeast Asian Studies and PhDs with Southeast Asian concentration in one of the University's many disciplines.

Clearly one of Hawaii's curriculum strengths is the program for teaching Southeast Asian languages. The following languages have been taught regularly at UH since 1965: Burmese, Indonesian, Ilokano, Khmer, Thai, Tagalog/Filipino and Vietnamese. The University has recently been named a National Foreign Language Resource Center (NFLRC) for a third three-year period and the Southeast Asia language teachers are regular participants in their language and teaching development programs. CSEAS also administers the Fulbright-Hays Advanced Filipino Abroad summer language program, and UH students participate in similar summer abroad advanced language programs in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

To sustain one of the largest Southeast Asian programs in the US a substantial faculty is needed. Approximately 55 lecturers and resident and visiting professors teach courses on Southeast Asia.

In addition to an excellent academic program, UH students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of Southeast Asian ceremonies and festivals that occur regularly in Honolulu's Southeast Asian ethnic communities.

The UH library supports one of the largest selections of Southeast Asian materials in the world. These can be accessed through an electronic catalogue with computer terminals in the libraries. Materials from other U.S. and foreign libraries may be secured through inter-library loans.

The CSEAS outreach program oversees conferences, public lectures and develops educational materials such as workbooks and CD-ROMs for K-12 teachers. Recently the outreach program has emphasized mentoring faculties from other minority-serving colleges and universities in Southeast Asian studies. The University's Office of International Affairs, the University Research Council, and the Graduate Student Organization all provide support to faculty and students reading papers at professional meetings and conducting research.

## University of Michigan

The University of Michigan's National Resource Center for Southeast Asian Studies is housed at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS). Our mission is to support undergraduate, graduate, and professional school training in Southeast Asia area and language studies; to develop and enhance faculty expertise and research in the area; and to share our specialized knowledge and resources with the community at large through outreach activities.

Thirty-five faculty throughout the university teach, research, consult, and engage in collaborative professional activity related to Southeast Asia in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and in professional schools including Architecture and Urban Planning, Business, Engineering, Law, Music, National Resource and Environment, Public Health and Social Work. Each year more than 98 courses with Southeast Asia content are taught from a wide range of disciplines including anthropology, Asian religions, history, political science, literature, art history, music, business, public health, urban planning, natural resources and environment. Language instruction includes four levels each of Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese and three levels of Tagalog. Instruction in Javanese, Kawi and Burmese is available on demand.

Michigan's libraries and collections consist of more than 300,000 volumes in a variety of languages, including all of the major and many of the minor Southeast Asian languages. Specialized collections include the Gedney Thai Library, the Dean C. Worcester Philippine collection, slide and photograph collections on Southeast Asia in the U-M Asian Art Archives, the Stearns collection of musical instruments, and the collection in the Kresge Business Administration Library.

Michigan has particular strengths in interdisciplinary and professional training and research on Southeast Asia. These include an interdisciplinary Asian Studies concentration for BAs; an MA in Southeast Asian Studies, which may be combined with a master's degree in Architecture and Urban Planning, Business, Natural Resources and Environment, Public Policy, Social Work and other professional fields; with English/Comparative Literature, History/Anthropology and Linguistics/Asian Languages and Cultures. In addition, a new initiative between the School of Public Health and CSEAS will soon offer a joint MPH/MA in Southeast Asian Studies. There are also many opportunities for students in all schools and disciplines to undertake field research or internships in Southeast Asia.

Regular programmatic outreach activities include a teacher-training workshop, an academic sharing program, workshops for elementary and secondary school teachers, and curriculum development initiatives. Our brown bag lecture series, thematic conferences, exhibitions and performances are open to the public. The Southeast Asia Business Program organizes or co-sponsors a business faculty research conference, executive education seminars, an automotive industry conference, and publishes the refereed Journal of Asian Business. Individual faculty are actively involved, as resource specialists, in lecturing to community groups and in various media activities on both the local and national levels.

Our center has a three-fold mission: 1) to share our expertise on Southeast Asia with the entire university community, including professional schools, as the University of Michigan undergoes the process of increased internationalization over the coming years; 2) to enhance and expand opportunities in international studies for both our undergraduate and graduate students; and 3) to broaden general understanding of Southeast Asia through new, collaborative initiatives with both elementary and secondary schools and post-secondary institutions.



## **University of Washington**

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) was established in 1973 and has been a Title VI NRC since 1981. CSEAS is administratively located in and funded by the College of Letters and Science and is a major program of the International Institute, where its activities are coordinated with 8 other area programs. CSEAS administers undergraduate (BA) and graduate (MA) degree programs in SE Asian Studies, as well as offering a Graduate Certificate and PhD minor in SE Asian Studies. Since 1990, 49 BA, 124 MA, and 66 PhD degrees have been awarded to students taking coursework and conducting research on SE Asia. Although CSEAS does not have its own faculty, it coordinates area activities and course offerings of 31 core teaching faculty in 17 departments. Expertise by internationally eminent faculty in top-ranked departments and extensive library holdings combine to provide a strong comprehensive coverage with considerable depth on Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, and, increasingly, Vietnam.

The Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, regularly offers three or more levels of instruction in Filipino, Indonesian, and Thai. On-campus language training is supplemented through active participation in the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI), a national consortium for intensive language training, and in all 4 summer advanced programs abroad (Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese). As the SEASSI host in 1994-95, CSEAS registered the largest enrollments to date (total of 392), and was selected by SEASSI Consortium to host the first 5-year institute (2000-2004).

A program of over 80 non-language courses with over 25% SE Asian content (34 with 80-100%) are offered to undergraduate and graduate students in 21 social science, humanities, and professional school departments. In addition, ample opportunities exist for students to design multidisciplinary and intercollege programs on SE Asia in international business, development and environmental studies, natural resources management, forestry, rural sociology, public health, education, and public policy studies. CSEAS actively supports two UW study abroad programs in SE Asia for undergraduates: the College Year in Thailand and Summer Study Program in Manila, and a graduate study program at Thammasat University, as well as actively participating in the CIEE programs in Indonesia and Vietnam.

CSEAS's outreach program sponsors a well-attended weekly Friday Forum lecture series and numerous other lectures, workshops, conferences, symposia, and music and dance performances, with the latter being part of a uniquely comprehensive instructional program in classical Indonesian music and dance. Off-campus outreach activities include regular performances and workshops in the public and private schools, a national SE Asia materials distribution service, K-12 teacher training workshops, and a college faculty access program, in all reaching thousands of K-12 and post-secondary students each year. CSEAS also participates in the Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium, a cooperative statewide initiative to promote better global awareness in the schools and among regional and national business, media, and the general public.

UW maintains extensive library holdings, including a SE Asian Film and Video Archive (with 1,586 videos) and vast microform collections of newspapers and primary documents, administered by a full-time, tenured SE Asia librarian. CSEAS also administers an active publications program and a permanent internet website that includes the first digital museum of SE Asian photographs

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